

CLAIMS

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1. A polypeptide which comprises:
 - (a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 1,
 - (b) a variant of (a) which is capable of binding an anti-MtsA antibody, or
 - (c) a fragment of (a) or (b) of at least 6 amino acids in length which is capable of binding an anti-MtsA antibody.
 2. A vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide which comprises:
 - (a) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 1,
 - (b) a variant of (a) which is capable of generating an immune response to a Streptococcus or
 - (c) a fragment of (a) or (b) of at least 6 amino acids in length which is capable of generating an immune response against a Streptococcus.
 3. A vaccine composition according to claim 2 wherein the Streptococcus is a group A Streptococcus.
 4. A polynucleotide having a sequence which is
 - (i) the nucleotide coding sequence of SEQ ID NO 1 or the sequence complementary thereto,
 - (ii) a nucleotide sequence which selectively hybridises to a said sequence (i) or a fragment thereof, or
 - (iii) a nucleotide sequence which codes for a polypeptide having the same amino acid sequence as that encoded by a said sequence (i) or (ii).
 5. A polynucleotide according to claim 4 wherein the sequence (i), (ii) or (iii) encodes a polypeptide capable of generating an immune response to a

Streptococcus.

6. An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 4 or 5 operably linked to a regulatory sequence.
7. A host cell transformed with a polynucleotide of claim 4 or claim 5.
8. A process of producing a polypeptide suitable for use in vaccination against a Streptococcus comprising maintaining the host cell as defined in claim 7 under conditions to provide expression of the polypeptide and recovering the expressed polypeptide.
9. An antibody specific for a polypeptide as defined in claim 1.
10. A method of vaccinating a patient against a Streptococcal infection, which method comprises administering to the patient an effective amount of a polypeptide as defined in claim 1 or a vaccine composition according to claim 2 or 3.
11. A vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide as defined in claim 1 or claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
12. A polypeptide according to claim 1 or a vaccine composition according to claim 2 for use in generating a protective immune response in an individual to a streptococcus.